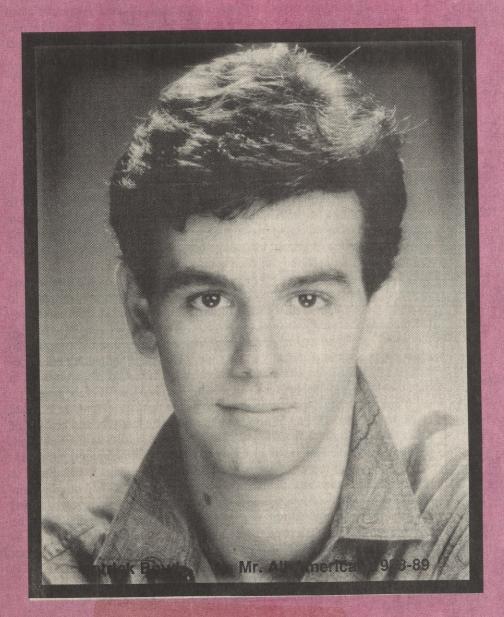
# PATLAR



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#### PATLAR

Voice of Gay America Copyright 1989

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Douglas N. Lewis
Michael Maier

#### **Cover Personalities:**

Our cover personality for May is PATRICK BOYD, Mr. All-American 1988-89. A native of West Virginia, Mr. Boyd's performing credits range from summer stock and dance repertory companies to film and a road tour of his own magic troupe. Mr. Boyd will be entertaining audiences thoughout the country

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Patlar:

This letter is intended to correct misinformation appearing in the media regarding Olympic champion Greg Louganis and one of the General Mill's breakfast cereals, *Wheaties*.

Recently the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) urged readers of its monthly bulletin to protest Mr. Louganis' absence from the front of the Wheaties package, an athletic recognition that has been awarded to only a select number of Olympians in the 65-year-old history of the cereal. GLAAD also quoted a sports marketing executive to the effect that Mr. Louganis wasn't "macho."

Many readers have erroneously assumed that the executive who made the "macho" statement is from General Mills. He is <u>not</u> -- nor does he have any association with General Mills or *Wheaties*.

Mr. Louganis and other outstanding American athletes who participated in the 1988 Summer Olympics were not selected to appear on the *Wheaties* package because at the time the cereal was negotiating a long-term contract with basketball star Michael Jordan.

Wheaties is proud of the accomplishment of all the athletes who represented the United States in the 1988 Summer Olympics.

R. C. Shulstad
Director of Media and Financial Relations
GENERAL MILLS, INC.
Minneapolis, MN 55440

Dear Editor:

I am working on an oral history of the Stonewall riots which took place in Greenwich Village in 1969. I sent out notices about this project over a year ago and have received responses from all over the country. I want to thank all of you who posted or printed this notice because it is as a result of your support that I have had such overwhelming response.

I am writing this letter for three specific reasons. First, because this June is the 20th anniversary of the Stonewall riots, gay people are beginning to focus on that date more than ever. Therefore, I want to attract even more people than have already answered my request. Second, I feel very strongly that the book I am working on should represent the events and the people who took part in them as accurately as possible. Therefore I am putting out a special request to women and people of color who witnessed or participated in the Stonewall riots. Finally, I am still looking for photographs of the riots.

I had originally hoped for the book to be out this June. However, because of the unexpected volume of responses to my notice last year and because of the problems I am having getting the records on the riots from the New York City Police and the FBI, it will probably be another year before it is published.

Please spread the word about this project. This request is being sent to organizations, bookstores, publications, community centers and other gathering places around the country. Because of another project I am involved in and because of the sponsorship of some gay and lesbian organizations, I will be traveling to different parts of the country this year. This may allow me to interview in person most of those interested. If you have any questions about the project, please contact me and thanks for your interest and assistance.

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#### HORNER'S CORNER

by Lee Horner

[The following article was written by a California lawyer for general information only. Patlar is not giving legal advice and readers are encouraged to consult with their own attorney concerning the matters discussed. Your comments are invited. Ed.]

### What does a probate estate really cost? [Part two of two]

The other night five of us were taking a break from a poker game and I put the question to the group, including an associate who was promoting "living trusts," and the question was: "If I die in California and leave an estate worth \$100,000, what percentage will go to lawyers and the court system if the will goes thru the normal probate process?"

To make it even more interesting, I told everyone to put money on the table--how many dollars per hundred (i.e. what per cent) would they say goes toward normal probate administration?

Now these guys I play poker with aren't in the law business at all and come from very different backgrounds--but I was amazed at the different opinions.

The high was \$40; this individual fully believed that 40 cents out of every single estate dollar would get eaten up by the lawyers, the executor and the court system.

The lowest was \$25 or 24%. I asked everyone what they based these figures on and essentially it was "Well, I heard someone say once..." or "I went to this trust seminar and they told me...."

Amazing.

First, let's consider estate taxes. In California, unless the estate is over \$600,000, there aren't any. No state inheritance tax. No federal estate tax. Nothing.

But my question was aimed at the cost of a probate and specifically how much the lawyer would wind up with.

Each state has its own rules, but in California the attorney's ordinary fees are set by law. On the first \$15,000 the fee is 4%. On the next \$85,000 the fee is 3%. From \$100,000 to \$1,000,000, it is a whopping 2%, and it goes down from there.

So my \$100,000 estate would cost slightly over three pennies per dollar in legal fees to probate under normal circumstances.

What I am quoting is the ordinary fee that would apply unless there was something real weird, like a will contest, a suit against the deceased that had to be settled, etc. Your garden variety probate case, which is how most of them turn out, gets the estate attorney 2 cents per dollar on everything above \$100,000 up to a

million.

And just what do you get for these huge lawyers fees? You get a licensed member of the California State Bar handling all the paperwork and court matters for you, and he or she doesn't even get paid until it's all over with, and then only after a judge says the fee is approved. You get the services of a superior court judge who looks over-with a magnifyhing glass, even bi-focals in most cases--all the papers and accountings made by the estate's personal representative. You have a probate examiner looking over the file to ensure that the lawyer has done everything right and a probate referee to appraise major items (like cars, real estate, stocks, etc.) although the referee's appraisal fee is a slight extra charge and is based on the value of the appraisal..

Living trusts, on the other hand, are not supervised by the court. If the trustee isn't bonded, should he steal the trust blind, good luck getting it back. And by law a trust cannot continue on indefinitely--generally it must conclude within 21 years of the end of a life in being at its creation. It cannot continue into infinity. If it is supposed to, it is

probably void altogether!

My friend who just went to this seminar showed me his living trust agreement. He was told that he could select anyone he wanted to be the trustee--a friend, relative, etc.; and it should be someone he trusted.

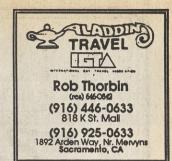
Great.

But we looked at it a bit more closely. Turns out that his entire estate, on his death, was to go to some Cayman Islands outfit he had never heard of. But he could select the trustee. Big deal! I don't care who writes the check, what I want to know is where the money winds up. He didn't know. He thought his friend, the trustee would get it all as that was the plan.

Now I'm not saying inter vivos trusts are bad. They're quite good if they're done properly, but there is no judicial supervision over them and you leave to chance whether your wishes will be carried out. Under no circumstances should you place your assets in a trust that isn't prepared for you by an attorney. A number of slick non-attorney operators are out there right now hyping these trusts. Some are OK, and others scare me to death when I read them.

Remember, it cannot go on forever. If the trust violates this rule against perpetuities, it is void from the start. This means everything goes into a probate anyway; and if there's no will, the state says who gets what.

Next month: A look at the Rock Hudson/AIDS case. What's it all about, and is it good law, or what? We'll talk again.



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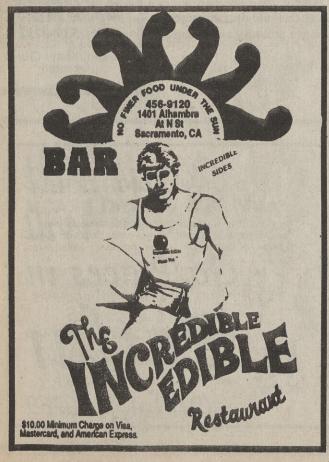
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#### THE NEXT WAVE

by Douglas N. Lewis

Life In The Fast Lane



I have ARC. Not AIDS, ARC. AIDS RELATED COMPLEX. And I have no idea what that means. People have died from ARC. The definitions of what and what isn't AIDS seem pretty ludicrous to people in my position. I mean, I could list my symptoms and the signs of infection, I could show you the doctor bills

and the test results, I could tell you that I feel pretty miserable most of the time, I could rage on in a political diatribe against the government, the church, the world, God and myself . . . Yeah, I have a lot of experience with ARC, but it's still not real. So why am I still doing things that are harmful to me? Huh? Like smoking. I enjoy smoking. But it's bad for me. It can kill me, quickly, in my weakened state. And yet I still do it. Am I just a coward, or do I enjoy Russian Roulette.

First, the cowardly. Is this seeming indifference to my health just a monumental lack of self-esteem? No self-worth? Low opinion of myself? Absolutely. But don't get me wrong; I love life. And I love me. I like living (I use "like" instead of "love" here because, quite frankly, I don't love a lot of what passes for living in my world). Dying scares me, though not so badly since so many have died so close to me. After so much loss, is it that I'm spiritually broke and can't pay the toll of day by day, minute by minute living? Can you, rationally, tire so completely of life that death, itself, becomes welcome? I'm not talking about a person contemplating jumping off a bridge here. I'm talking about a person who will let their life go to see and do almost nothing to stop the waste. True cowardice? Or a too-gentle soul not equipped to handle the brutality and chaos of an impersonal world?

Maybe it's the crash and burn syndrome, the Russian Roulette temptation. Life only means something when it's at risk of being totally lost. Maybe the worth of something is only quantifiable in relation to its absence. "You don't know what you've got till it's gone," is how Paul Simon put it. Well, to tell you the truth, it's a combination of all these things. A jumbled-up, mixed-up bag of tricks that allows me the indifference to ignore the destruction of my own body while attempting to go on as if nothing is wrong. But something IS wrong, terribly wrong.

And yet, I'm not so bad off as I've made myself out to be. I continue to write and produce work that I'm proud of. I deal with people in a positive way for the most part and continually look for ways to make my life more com-

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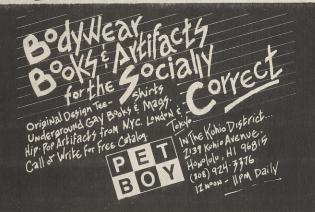
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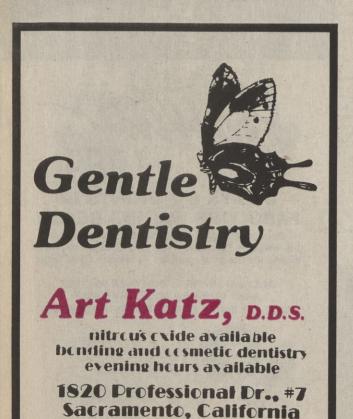


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fortable and productive. I fit no textbook definition of the depressed or hopelessly neurotic. Maybe it's just that the awareness of my mortality has made everything and everybody more meaningful to me. Awareness, however, can be a terrible burden. Each and every second carries a weight that I have not previously known before.

So the ups are higher, the downs are lower and everything take on the quality of being overwhelming and overdone. I have beautiful moments of transcendence, when the world seems bright and full of possibility. I have moments of depression (I refer to them as "the bleaks"), when nothing seems right and the world is just too ferocious and lonely a place. Everything has been turned upside down and the most basic desires seem unattainable (Will I ever have a lover again, someone to share with me and care for me, someone to help and to be helped by? Should I sign up for the retirement plan at work? What will my sister's children look like in five years? Etc.).

I debated a long time about publishing this. The last thing I wanted to do was to take up this space with whining or complaining, but I think as this disease touches more and more of our lives, it's important to understand what is going on in the minds and hearts of those who are afflicted. I offer this to you as one part confession, one part advice and one part hope for the future.

#### **HOROSCOPES**

by Pat Larr, Sci.D.

TAURUS (Apr 20-May 20): It's Speedo and Tank Top weather and You've got just the tank-like top for it. Time to lose a bit of that armour, don't you think?

GEMINI (May 21-Jun 20): A budding romance takes an unexpected turn for the worse when that special someone reveals a new side of his personality. Beware!

CANCER (Jun 21-Jul 22): Money problems get in the way of your love life this month. If you need to get away from it all, just take a walk—it's cheaper.

LEO (Jul 23-Aug 22): A younger man lately only has eyes for you. Stop playing hard to get and he just might get you.

VIRGO (Aug 23-Sep 22): Time to stop carrying a torch for your old flame. He doesn't know you exist anymore, and you'll find another match soon enough.

LIBRA (Sep 23-Oct 22): A mysterious stranger longs to recruit you for his training program. You'll be a master in no time.

SCORPIO (Oct 23-Nov 22): Answering a personal ad brings much happiness into your life. This long-distance love affair is destined to least for some time.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21): That special someone gets you into one tight squeeze after another. This month he'll be coming back for more.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 19): After a wild night on the town, you wake up next to a very handsome hunk. Watch out, dear, that isn't as safe as it once was.

AQUARIUS (Jan 20-Feb 18): Carry a case of condoms wherever you go this month. You're like catnip to all the cuddly little pussykittens out there.

PISCES (Feb 19-Mar 20): A friend of a friend longs to run his tongue all over your body. If you can discover which friend it is, the pleasure will be all yours.

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#### **GAY HISTORY**

by Terry Boughner, Ph.D.

Sweden. The name conjures up visions of a beautiful, snow-filled land populated with blond, Viking god-like men and women whose splendid, bronzed bodies glow golden in the winter sun. It is a country whose 400 years of neutrality make it hard to think of as a nation with imperial ambitions. Yet, such it was in 1644 when Christina came to its throne, Queen Regnant of the home of her warrior ancestors.

Christina was born in 1626. Her father was King Gustavus Adolphus, the protestant champion against the catholic Hapsburgs in the Thirty Years War. At her birth, there was some little confusion as to just what she was-boy or girl--inasmuch as she came into the world wearing a thick membrane that made accurate definition difficult. And she was covered with hair and cried so lustily that it was thought that the baby could only be a male. Things were soon cleared up, but it was an omen. All her life she would be an oddity, an alien, someone set apart.

She grew to be a pretty girl, slight of figure with soft, pale blond hair and an attractive, pert little mouth. Yet, her manners were what in those days were thought "mannish." For example, she cared not one wit for clothes, loved to hunt, and swore like a trooper. Her mother wrung her hands, asking one minister, "Did I truly give life to a son?"

In 1632, Christina's father was killed at the Battle of Lutzen. Christina became Queen, but since she was only 7, the country was governed by a Council of Regency which would rule until she attained her 18th year.

The Swedes were absolutely entranced with their young queen, but Christina did not return the compliment. Oh, she had nothing against them. It was just that she longed for another life, a life she had read about, a life beyond the narrow confines of her rigidly Lutheran country, a life she could never know as long as she remained on the throne.

Then she fell in love. The queen was 19 when she met Ebba Sparre whom she would ever after call, "Belle."

Of course there was talk. The queen was not married and, in fact, absolutely refused even to consider a husband although numerous princes came and went. Christina loved Belle and, lest there be the slightest shadow of a doubt as to what they were to each other, the queen frankly told the French Ambassador that, "Belle is my bedfellow." Then, perhaps just to keep things diplomatically equal, she told all the rest.

The Ambassador from very catholic Spain was outraged. The envoy from Puritan England even more so. Pope Alexander VII sniffed that this all proved that Christina was "A woman born a barbarian, barbarously brought up and living with barbarous thoughts."

Christina couldn't, it seems, have cared less what they all thought. She was in love with Belle and that was that. "I am condemned," she wrote to her darling, "to the fate of loving you always." This and more in note after note after note.

Even modern historians such as Georgina Masson in her biography of the queen are forced to admit that these bill sen add

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billet-doux have to be taken as "love letters in the true sense." The queen, Masson concludes, was "a lesbian" and adds for no particular reason that "the condition is common among intellectuals."

But love or no, Christina had not given up her dream of another and more exciting life. In 1654 the queen, to the horror of her ministers and parliament, announced her intention to abdicate. They pleaded, they begged, but nothing could dissuade her.

So, Christina signed all the necessary papers and, with tears and kisses, departed. Belle was heartbroken, but could not bring herself to leave with Christina. For the next 34 years, Europe was beguiled and perplexed by the most remarkable woman of that generation.

Immediately on leaving Sweden, Christina cut her hair, put on men's clothes and was flattered to death when a young girl flirted with her. At every stop, women frequented the queen's bedroom which, with her masculine dregs and ways, made her the talk of the continent.

In Paris, Anne Marie, Duchesse d'Orleans, reported that Christina swore, slouched in her chair with one leg thrown over an arm and, in general, "comported herself in a most extraordinary way." The Duchesse and Christina became lovers for awhile. "How interesting," commented the Duc de Guise to the Queen Mother of France. "But why need she be so public about it?"

Christina toured the continent as she had dreamed and finally settled in Rome, first in the Palazzo Farnese and then the Palazzo Riario, once owned by a teen-aged Cardinal who happened to be the Pope's lover.

As far as the blase Romans were concerned, she was interesting, witty, intelligent and rich. Therefore, her lifestyle was her own concern. After all, Catholicism, as the Romans saw it, was, unlike Puritanism, not meant to interfere with living.

Christina remained in Rome for the rest of her life. Things were exciting with balls, banquets and conversations with the urbane, polished clergy. She dabbled in alchemy, collected art (preferring nude and noble women) and took up writing.

At first, Christina's project was a biography of Alexander the Great and Haephestion who, she said, were her heros. She dropped that when, as she said, the discovered that she could not comprehend the love of two men. "Between women, love is clear. But between men, love is different. I do not understand." Then she turned to composing maxims, the most telling one, I think, goes, "All abandon us sooner or later."

It was 1688, Christmas Eve, and Christina was feeling old and very tired. Belle, whom she had never ceased to love, was dead now and life seemed to have settled on her like an old dishrag on a plate. That evening, as she was dressing for a party, she told one of the young women who constantly surrounded her that in the coming year, she--Christina--would die. The idea was laughed at as those things are, but four months later she was dead.

She was buried in Rome, in the Vatican itself, the only woman ever to be entombed there. Her epitaph? Well, it's not carved on her grave stone, but it is remembered nevertheless in the words of an unknown contemporary.

"She freely followed her own genius in all things and cared not what anybody said."



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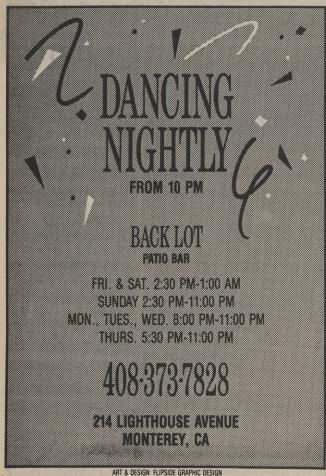
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Our best intentions can go astray if we mean what we say, but don't say what we mean. Our chances to project a thought are usually brief in conversation. "Your place or mine?" is an example of four one-syllable words that figuratively can open doors. No one wonders if there are grammatical or spelling errors, and the listener's attention is guaranteed. A response is likely and the risk is minimal that the speaker will be misunderstood. Hearing is the only requirement of the listener. Brevity reduces the chance for communication failure.

In contrast, the written word is subject to greater risk. The simplest effort has the writer's word selection on the block. Enter then the nemeses of spelling, typos, content and continuity. Since the reader's visual scrutiny is in force, the pitfalls increase. Whether we write by hand or keystroke, we still transpose letters, leave out syllables, fail to maintain agreement, and leave thoughts dangling. One sure-fire method to improve our written product is to develop good proofreading skills. Re-reading the copy carefully with specific intent can help find errors.

A good policy is not to bite off more than we can chew in our attempts to dazzle. I recall a formal document with wide distribution in a hospital where I worked. The personnel department decided to use Roman numerals on the upgraded tome. Once they got past V, they were on shaky ground. Overreacting to these double-digit blunders, I raced into the personnel department to point out their errors and to suggest ways to avoid future embarrassment. Simple research was the first recommendation. (This scene did nothing to improve community relations, ironically the name of my own department, but it did allow a smirk of satisfaction to cross my face.)

On the up side, the written word gives us a chance to improve the copy before turning it loose. Writing allows us to erase and try again to make ourselves clear. With time and practice, thoughts flow more smoothly, and soon we learn to say what we mean.

#### **BORN TO COOK!**

by Chef Luigi

In response to several requests lately for a vegetarian recipe, search as I might in my files, I could not come up with a way to cook a vegetarian. However, I have been known to simmer one in the hot tub before commencing with the serious nibbling! (Don't knock it until you've tried it; Johnny Carson once said California is the place where people boil their friends before they eat them. Why did you think I moved here?)

May is the time to get down to some serious barbecuing, which brings to mind one of my favorite Greek recipes:

#### Luigi's Leg of Lamb

1 large leg of lamb, about 6 or 7 pounds
2/3 cup of good olive oil
2/3 cup dry white wine
1/3 cup freshly squeezed lemon juice
3 cloves of garlic, minced
1 tablespoon fresh oregano, chopped
2 large bay leaves
1 cup chopped onion
1 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
fresh mint
lemon slices

I suggest that you order the leg of lamb from your favorite butcher in advance. Many supermarkets will also special-order specific cuts if requested ahead of time. Don't take a chance that they will have just what you are looking for, especially since a piece of meat this size is not standard. When you place your order, ask the butcher to bone it for you. It makes cooking and slicing much easier. Have the butcher tie the meat into a rectangle; this actually has a purpose and is not just to give those of us into bondage or S & M a reason to be in the kitchen. This keeps the meat together and ensures even cooking. Plus, it's fun.

In a large bowl, mix all remaining ingredients, except the mint and lemon slices. If fresh oregano is not available, one teaspoon of bottled can be substituted; remember, the flavors of almost all spices are enhanced by crumbling them before putting them into a mixture.

You now want to marinate the meat and mixture for 24 hours, so find something large enough and compact enough to accomplish this best. A large, self-sealing bag, a roaster, or a large bowl will do nicely. Be sure whatever you use is covered, and then place in the refrigerator overnight. Remember to turn your meat 3 or 4 times to marinate it best.

Follow manufacturer's directions for a medium fire in a covered grill with a drip pan--charcoal, gas, or electric. Grill the lamb, basting with the reserved marinade frequently. It will take about and hour and a half for rare to two hours for well done. Use a meat thermometer to be sure your meat comes out just the way you, or your guests, like it.

When cooked, remove the lamb from the grill and "tent" with a piece of aluminum foil for at least 20 minutes. Remember, the internal heat from the meat will continue the cooking process, so remove the meat just below the desired temperature.

Garnish the serving plate with fresh mint and lemon slices for presenting the feast.

This goes great with a Greek salad.



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#### IN MY OPINION

by Mel Dahl



America is at a crossroads, and as it parks there
trying to decide which road to
take, its gay children sit in the
back of the car. We are tired,
cranky and fidgety. We have
already counted cards, looked
for letters of the alphabet and
played other games until we
are bored with them. We are
hungry, and we need to use
the bathroom. It helps not at
all that we have now sat
through nearly a dozen green

lights due to driver indecision about which way to turn.

Reasonable minds may differ, but I place our arrival at the crossroads in 1932. The seeds of the modern gay rights movement did not sprout until the 1940s, and it was twenty years after that before the movement saw any real accomplishments. However, the gay and lesbian civil rights movement needs a certain type of soil in which to grow, and the necessary conditions for a gay movement first began to appear during the Roosevelt years. In large part, the growth of our body is one small facet of a much bigger historical trend, a trend that I hope to explore more fully in a future column. One of the major strategic errors of the gay/lesbian political arm is that its leadership wholly fails to grasp the relationship between gay and lesbian rights, and The Big Picture. The Big Question of the 1990s is whether the trend begun 50 years ago will continue; at the present time, there is constipation in the body politic.

As we, like the Prophet Elijah, ask our country, "How long halt ye between two opinions?", I think it is important in the short run to take a look at our immediate goals, how far we have come, and the likelihood of immediate success at them. In politics, success is measured in immediate accomplishments; it is for historians and philosophers to notice gradual changes. I believe our political agenda for the next ten years will consist mainly of repealing sodomy statutes and ending overt discrimination by the government.

At the present time about half the states continue to criminalize consensual homosexual sex. Until 1961, all 50 states criminalized consensual homosexual sex. Illinois dropped its legal ban that year, to be followed six years later by Connecticut. In the 1970s, state after state repealed, either by legislative act or by judicial decree, and it looked for a time like sodomy statutes would be swept off the books altogether. Then the train stalled, and it has now been six years since a state decriminalized sodomy.

In 1986 the United States Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of these statutes. To me, the gratifying thing about that decision was the almost universal censure and condemnation it received from the legal community. Rather than being the Supreme Court vs. gays, it has been the Supreme Court v. legal scholars. The decision was patently lacking in legal foundation, a patent repudiation of twenty years of the Supreme Court's own precedents, and patently without any basis except raw bigotry. Polls taken of lawyers consistently show that three-fourths of attorneys believe that case was wrongly decided, and among law school professors and other scholars, one is hard pressed to find any kind words for the decision at all.

I believe the Supreme Court is going to re-examine the

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Sally Kelley



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issue, and I think we have a decent shot at getting that decision reversed within the next two to five years, for several reasons. First of all, there are a couple of gay cases headed up to the Court, so they will have to take another look at it. Second, the Court took so much grief from its decision that it will almost certainly take a long, hard look at repeating itself. Third, while President Reagan did appoint some very conservative justices, they replaced justices who voted against us last time. Our friends are all still there, and likely to be there long enough to hear the next gay case. Finally, one justice who voted against us last time has effectively admitted in public that she thinks she voted wrong, although I wouldn't want to identify her by saying in print who she is.

If the Supreme Court refuses to reverse itself, then we must look to the legislatures. About a dozen of the states that still criminalize gay behavior are likely to repeal on their own within the next decade, but I think there are a dozen or so states that will keep sodomy statutes until the Supreme Court tells them they can't.

The problem with sodomy statutes, of course, is not that they get enforced (although sometimes they do) but rather that they give gay people the legal status of criminals, and thus pave the way for other forms of discrimination. There is a whole host of anti-gay court decisions justifying discrimination on the grounds that gay people are criminals, and thus should not have custody of children, should not be permitted to serve in the military, should not be permitted to work in law enforcement, and should not be permitted to enter the United States from other countries.

This brings us to the next point: open discrimination against gay people by the government. Back in the 1950s, President Eisenhower signed an executive order forbidding the employment of gay people by the federal government. Additionally, the law forbids gay people from other countries to enter the United States, and gay people are barred by law from working in the licensed professions in many states. For example, I can't legally practice law in Tennessee.

Most of President Eisenhower's executive order has been struck by the courts. It looks like Congress is about to repeal the gay alien law. As a practical matter, the only agencies that actively continue to discriminate against gay people are the military, the CIA, the FBI and the State Department.

While President Bush is certainly no friend of ours, I don't think he is the caveman President Reagan was, either. I expect his judicial appointments will be something of an improvement. However, it probably isn't realistic to expect him to do anything radical, like order the federal government to quit discriminating against gay people in employment. I view our likelihood of success in the courts at about 40%. I think that the next Democratic president will probably repeal the ban if the courts don't do it first.

As long as the Supreme Court's sodomy decision is the law of the land, the courts are a mixed bag at best. Frankly, I am a little reluctant to encourage people to take things to court, just because of the possibility of making more bad case law.

In terms of gay issues, I think the pendulum has swung about as far to the right as it is going to, and the question now is how long we will have to wait before it begins its swing to the left once more. Overall, I am much more optimistic about the future than I was a year ago.

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### **MODERN MUSIC**

by Michael Maier

It has been a number of weeks since I returned home from my visit to Japan. I find myself still in somewhat of a Japanese state of mind. Since I am currently in this mind set, it seems only logical to review the latest release from the Japanese-American fusion jazz group, Hiroshima.

The group's sixth release is titled EAST, which features the five-person ensemble (Dan Kuramoto, June Kuramoto, Danny Yamamoto, Johnny Mori and Machun) on an outstanding tentrack Epic Records release.

This current album marks a true level of maturity that they have shown only in varied degrees on previous releases. Every track embodies their unique ability to infuse different elements of sound, culture and music into extraordinary material. Like the

spring time cherry trees that blossom in Tokyo's Shinjuku Gyoen Garden, so does this album blossom forth with sophistication and mature artistic integrity.

Despite the group's fusion of jazz, rock, r&b and new age elements into each composition, there still remains that rare melding of traditional Japanese instrumentation throughout the entire production, being the signature element that identifies the group from all others in their genre. This is best highlighted on such tracks as: "Midtown Higashi," "Daydreamer," "Streetcorner Paradise" and "Thousand Cranes" (which memorializes a young girl named Sadako who died at the age of 11 from leukemia due to the radiation of the atomic bomb dropped on the city of Hiroshima in 1945).

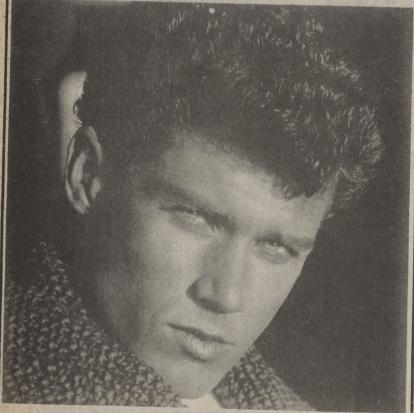
The group's rock and r&b style is best represented on songs such as "East," "Living In America," "The Golden Age" and "You and Me." This cross section of songs shows the versatility and multi-cultural exposure of this Los Angeles based band.

Of the five members who form Hiroshima, attention should be focused on the exceptional talents of the groups' koto (a 3000-yearold Japanese harp-style instrument) player, June Kuramoto. Her delicate, yet crystal-like playing, is a remarkable and singular form of artistry.

This album should certainly serve as a shining star of success for this first-rate group. The band shows that they are one of the best cultural link between East and West, together demonstrating the quality of Japanese artistry and the ingenuity of the American spirit. EAST gets my top recommendation for May 1989.

A few of my other TOP PICKS for May 1989 include: DIAMONDS AND RUST IN THE BULLRING, Joan Baez; ALL THAT JAZZ, Breathe; BLUEBIRD, Emmylou Harris; LIKE A PRAYER, Madonna; STRANGER THINGS HAVE HAPPENED, Ronnie Milsap; A NEW FLAME, Simply Red; ANCIENT HEART, Tanita Takaram; ESSENCE, John Weider, and TOWARD THE CENTER OF THE NIGHT, Michael Manring.

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#### THE SACRAMENTO PAGE

(Home Base Of Patlar)

Well, readers, by the time you read this we should have a



ERNIE BROWN
UIEWS FROM RIVER CITY

new Empress & a new Emperor. Congrats to the new monarchs. It was quite a campaign. For the next twelve months, you have your work cut out for you . . . Valley Knights Motorcyle Club, you did it again. Your Lucky 13 annual bike run to Clear Lake was another highlight of the season. You guys really know how to do it. Speaking of Clear Lake, you all have got to go up there and check it out. There is only

one gay bar up there, but it's loaded. Restaurant, liquor, dancing. Call The Sunset Point, located in Glenhaven on the the lake. It's managed by two Sacto boys, Tim & Gary. The lake is beautiful this time of the year . . . By the time you read this, those two new bars in Sacto that I have been talking about for the last two months should be open: The Townhouse and Partners . . . Several other gay businesses are slated to open this month, including a salon for men & women and a cleaners, both to be located above the Mercantile Saloon . . . Well, Our Time Of The Year is here again. That old familiar sound: "Let's Play Ball." Our soft ball teams are up & out & at it again. Let's join them. They need our support . . . Terry Sidee (Faces), The Weather Girls done it again. They really brought the house down. Big Congrats . . . The word is out. Our out-going monarchs, Empress LaKish & Emperor Bill during their reign raised over \$10,000 for charity. Now that's going to be one tough act to follow . . . The Latest Issue is coming to town. Yes, that's the name of Sacto's latest gay newspaper, headed by a wonderful lady, Kate Moore. Patlar wishes you the best, Kate.

#### Visionz of a Gay World Premiere

by J. P. Lawrence

May marks the start of something new and exciting for Sacramento's lesbians and gay men, the first edition of *Visionz*, a gay and lesbian TV magazine that shares the pride and diversity of its community.

Gay cable ventures are not new to Sacramento; the city has had a "gay" cable program for almost a year now. Nor is it new to the US or Canada; the *Advocate's* May '88 issue reports on 17 cities producing 22 programs. What is new to Sacramento and unique in gay TV is its format and strict attention to quality. *Visionz* is a weekly half hour TV magazine, similar to the format used by a number of popular informative TV programs: Entertainment Tonight, Sunday Morning, The West, and 20/20 to name a few.

Visionz will premiere with a One Hour Special on Wednesday evening May 31 at 9 PM on cable Channel 47. The first half of this special, "Pre-Visionz," will look at gay history and current trends in lesbian and gay lifestyles, will profile the people who make Visionz possible, and will familiarize the audience with the format of Visionz. The second half will be the very first "Visionz."

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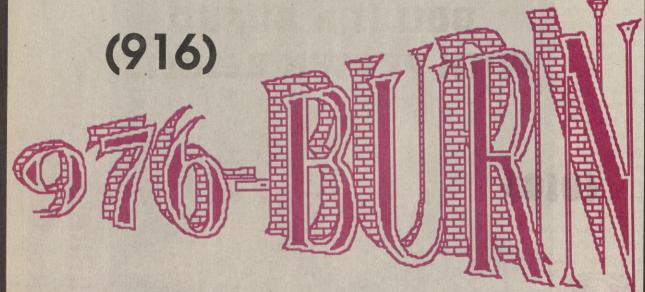
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GAY LADY, looking for relationship with oriental lady between 30-45 years old in Sacramento area. Write: Patlar PL-145, PO Box 22402, Sacramento, CA 95822. [99PL]

GWM, 30ish, fairly good shape, bi/hazel, 5'10", 150#, new to Sacto, seeks slim attractive, affectionate GWMs for friends, maybe more. Write: Gerry 2826 Sweet Way, Sacramento, CA 95821. [96PL]

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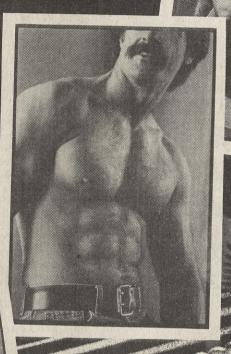
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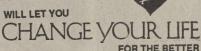


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there? I'm a w/m, 40ish, 5'11", 165, brown-silver hair, brown eyes, moustache, dry sense of humor, masculine, somewhat shy, sincere. I do have very pleasant looks and hope you do also. I enjoy outdoor activities, walking, music, photography, cars, cuddling and sex. I like to participate in life. I cherish strong principles, attractiveintelligence, ness, monogamy, good personal hygiene. I'm into safe sex. I'm basically seeking quality friendship and someone who cares. Desiring it will lead to something nice. Are you still out there? I am here. To contact me, write Patlar ad 5-01, c/o The Patlar, PO Box 22402, Sacramento, CA

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LONELY LADY looking for same. Write Patlar PL-145, PO Box 22402, Sacramento, CA 95822. [99PL]

GWM, 27, athletic, lean & tall, UCD student, likes to meet health conscious GM (18-30) for long-term partnership. Room for rent. Will answer your letter & photo. Write to Patlar, PL-139, PO Box 22402, Sacramento, CA 95822. [98 PL]

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